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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Frank Cirone of Ravenscrest Chalet at the Torchbearer Bible School, Estes Park, CO.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Hear my cry, O God;

Give heed to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint;

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For You have been a refuge for me,

A tower of strength against the enemy.

Let me dwell in Your tent forever;

Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.—(Psalm 61:1-4)

Know that the Lord Himself is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.—(Psalm 100:3)

Heavenly Father, Almighty God, we come before You today acknowledging You as Creator of this universe and Sovereign Lord over all. We have so much to be thankful for. We bless You for the privilege of living in this land of freedom. We bless You for the wonderful salvation we can have through the shed blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ and life eternal by His resurrection. We praise You, Lord, for the wisdom and peace You give as we call upon Your name.

Sovereign Lord, we pause for a moment . . . to pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces that are fighting for the freedom of Iraq. May they know of Your constant strength, wisdom, and protection through this conflict. May they be reminded of our love, prayers, and support. Please, Lord, comfort the families and friends of lost loved ones in their time of sorrow.

Dear God, empower these men and women of this Senate with Your courage and understanding as they are

faced with the challenges of today. Thank You, Lord, for placing them in their positions of leadership as Senators of this great Nation.

As we live in these challenging times nationally and internationally, may we learn to slow down, step up, and stand out in Your strength, allowing Your life and love to shine through our lives publicly and privately so that Your name, O God, will be exalted. Use us today, O Gracious Lord, for Your purpose and praise! We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m. to allow Members to continue to make statements honoring and supporting our fighting men and women overseas.

At 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. As I announced last night, the chairman has developed a lineup of amendments. Senator BOXER will go first with an antimissile amendment. Then we will try to reach a 30-minute time limitation on her language. I understand following that amendment, Senator BAYH will be prepared with an amendment regarding bioterrorism, and Senator GRAHAM of Florida will have an amendment regarding VA health.

Votes will be stacked in the early afternoon to accommodate the schedules of a number of Senators. The Senate will complete action on the supplemental bill today. If Members continue to cooperate and allow for short debate limitations on their amendments, it may be possible to finish at a reasonable hour today. That is my hope. In any event, we all are prepared to stay as late as necessary in order to finish the bill this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

WELCOMING REVEREND CIRONE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I take a moment to welcome our Chaplain for the day.

Frank and Krista Cirone, with their four children: Andrew, Benjamin, Isaak, and Anikka, live and minister at Ravenscrest Chalet of the Torchbearer International Missionary Fellowship. Ravenscrest Chalet is a Bible school and Christian conference center in Estes Park, CO. The Cirones enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and snowboarding in the Colorado Rockies.

Frank graduated from Philadelphia Biblical University in 1989 prior to joining the staff at Ravenscrest Chalet. Frank is pursuing his master's degree in leadership from Denver Seminary. At Ravenscrest, he serves as principal of the Bible school, resident instructor and coordinator of the second year leadership program.

Besides his responsibilities at Ravenscrest, Frank spends time traveling and speaking at various conferences and retreats both in North America and overseas. He very much enjoys motivating people to a deeper love for Christ that influences all aspects of daily living through dynamic communication and interaction. I want to thank Mr. Cirone and his family for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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making the trip to Washington, DC and participating today in the opening prayer of the Senate.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a short statement to make on our troops.

Very briefly, we have taken a period of time each morning to comment on the wonderful work and tremendous commitment and dedication our troops are displaying overseas for us, and we have had the opportunity to comment on the families at home, offering prayers and support for their children, and in many cases for their spouses and their parents as well. They know the men and women are fighting for liberty, democracy, and peace.

This morning, my thoughts and prayers are with the family of the soldier who died during Operation Iraqi Freedom, SP Brandon J. Rowe, Company C, 1-502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY.

Two sentences caught my eye from the Army news release:

Specialist Rowe epitomizes the best of our country—a brave soldier—who exhibited courage, selfless service, and honor in abundance. His ultimate sacrifice has contributed immeasurably to the freedom and security of both Iraq and the world.

While liberating Najaf, the 101st Airborne has been met over the last 48 hours by grateful people waving and clapping hands and saying, "Good job."

Quoted yesterday in the Washington Post, LTC Chris Hughes, a battalion commander in the 1st Brigade:

We waited about an hour and a half, and the hair on the back of my neck began to stand up. The crowd got bigger and bigger, so we pulled back out. But it was like the liberation of Paris.

Our newspaper in Nashville, the Tennessean, reported yesterday that a soldier in the 101st will soon learn he is a new father—again showing the many dimensions of this war and its impact on families and the feelings families are expressing and sharing among themselves. SGT Chris Schornak's wife Robyn gave birth to Tristan James Schornak at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday. He was born at NorthCrest Medical Center in Springfield. The mom and young Tristan are doing well and will soon be living with relatives in Franklin, KY.

Again, these are faces of our families and our troops, and to all of them our thoughts and prayers continue to go out.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time equally di-

vided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democrat leader, or their designee.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, Members of the Congress have been receiving reports on a daily basis on the conflict in Iraq. At these briefings, I report back to Members of the Congress and America that things have been going well, much better than many expected, in the war in Iraq.

What we have been getting out of these briefings is just how highly trained are our men and women in the Armed Forces and how the technological developments of this country have helped make their job easier on the battlefield. We have learned to appreciate their courage and commitment to protecting America's freedom.

Today marks the 14th day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the fight for freedom continues in the Middle East. Our brave members of the U.S. military have shown the entire world how truly committed the United States is to ending the dangerous regime in Iraq. By sacrificing their lives so those in Iraq can finally be allowed peace, coalition forces continue to courageously march toward Baghdad.

During the last 2 weeks, I, along with many of my colleagues, have continued to come down to the Senate floor daily to honor our troops and praise their valor. While we stand in the safety of the Capitol Building, our words will not be heard by those who are directly in harm's way, but the words are still needed.

It is important for us to continue to honor these men and women, some of whom will not come home, who fight for freedom and the safety and security of the United States of America. I would like at this time to honor some of those brave men and women from my home State of Colorado who this very day are being moved into the Persian Gulf.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as well as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team have been deployed from Fort Carson over the 3 weeks and continue to do so today. Many of these individuals have been waiting for the chance to stand shoulder to shoulder with their comrades already participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I salute them for their bravery.

It is clear that after all of the deployments from Fort Carson are completed, it will mark the biggest mobilization from the base since World War II. I sincerely hoped that the course of events that have led to the mobilization of soldiers not only from Colorado but those stationed all over the world would not have happened. But it was apparent from the beginning that our Armed Forces would need to be involved in the manner that they are now. And they have performed admi-

rably. I pray for a safe return for our troops and that this conflict can end as soon as possible.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the names of our military personnel who will not be returning home. I offer my condolences to those families whose sons and daughters have already been lost. To the families of LCpl Thomas Slocum and Cpl Randal Kent, I give my deepest and most sincere sympathies for the loss of their sons. In their passing, they have continued the valued Marine Corps tradition of esprit de corps, and I will continue to pray for you as you mourn your loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Armed Forces both at home and overseas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends. God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the time is equally divided this morning; is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. We have a lot of speakers here. How much time does the minority have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority has 10 minutes.

Mr. REID. And how long does the majority have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Approximately 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. We have a problem right here to begin with.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if I can just assure that we are covered.

Mr. REID. OK.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. We have Senator DAYTON and Senator CORNYN, and if there is any time left I will take it.

Mr. REID. I will yield whatever time needed to the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise also to pay tribute today to the heroic men and women of our Armed Forces who are performing so well on behalf of our country in Iraq. Their courage, their patriotism, and their valor represent the finest traditions and the best values of the American military and of the country which they serve. They have fought brilliantly, they have fought bravely, and they have fought successfully. They have now advanced to within 10 miles of Baghdad. They have been victorious thus far. They will be victorious from now on. And they will be victorious in the end.

To the brave women and men who gave their lives in the service of their Nation, to their families and friends, the people they love and the people who love them, we express our heartfelt gratitude and our deepest sorrow and condolences. We are in awe of your courage, your heroism. As the families and friends of those fallen heroes who are your friends and neighbors, your coworkers and church members, we know that you have suffered the most grievous losses and must be suffering inestimable pain. Our hearts go out to